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EDITORIAL - 'Just for the record'

One topic currently being aired in British Ufology is the need for a UFO archives. At the last BUFORA council meeting it was suggested that BUFORA and CONTACT should explore the possibilities of such a scheme, which would principally involve the putting together in one place all available UFO material (eg books and magazines) These would then be made available for reference and research purposes. Following this a group of people from Crosby, Merseyside, have come along with an idea along slightly different lines. They propose to form a UFO Records Office and in principle this seems a sound idea. However, one must ask several questions before it is put into operation.

It is expected that this group, headed by a Gary Raymer, will be contacting groups shortly to invite them to an initial meeting. Unfortunately as it stands at the moment they have set the date of this meeting as April 10 - which is in direct competition to the next NUFON group meeting. It is very much hoped that it will prove possible for them to amend this date, since it would be a pity if many people obviously interested and able to contribute ideas to this scheme were prevented from attending. The situation has been explained and we await a decision on the part of these people.

How could such a records office operate? As I understand the basic suggestion it is to act as an inflow point for all UFO reports from any part of the country. Groups could then call the office number and obtain preliminary details on a sighting from any date, plus the contact address of the group from where to obtain more details. It would seem this has some disadvantages. For example, it presupposes that every group will transfer data on all cases to fulfill an altruistic obligation. NUFON has taken two years to reach a position where a fair proportion of northern groups will pass on details of worthwhile cases by means of this newsletter. By no means all groups do so even now, however. One is bound to question the probability of many groups being willing to transfer data to yet another central point (in addition to NUFON, BUFORA and CONTACT as some already do). This is particularly so since groups in the north will principally want information on local cases and can already get this by a) consultation of this newsletter each month b) borrowing complete copies of the report file from our records officer under NUFON's new policy or c) referring to the regional catalogues which are at present in preparation jointly between NUFON and our two national association allies which will cover all historical cases from the regions.

It seems to make sense, therefore, that the number of channels be reduced by setting up this office IN CONJUNCTION with NUFON, BUFORA, CONTACT and the newly formed SUFON. Here with minimal effort we would have a fully comprehensive data bank. It would be possible to combine the UFO archives idea with this scheme also. The centre would collate copies of all UFO publications and brief data readouts (ie monthly lists of sightings by date, time, place and description) from the networks and national groups. The centre would index all incoming data and would be in a position to act through the networks and associations to loan or photocopy information and published material for reputable researchers. Let us hope that Gary Raymer and his colleagues recognise the importance of what they are proposing and allow everyone to contribute towards the development of a system - which if it works could be an invaluable asset.

NB: IT IS VERY PLEASING TO NOTE THAT WE HAVE CONTRIBUTIONS FROM 12 GROUPS AND INDIVIDUALS IN THIS ISSUE OF THE NEWS. KEEP THE INFORMATION AND REPORTS FLOWING IN AND LET'S MAINTAIN THE SAME LEVEL OF INFORMATIVE CONTENT EACH MONTH.

NORTHERN UFO NETWORK (NUFON) is a communications and liaison medium for all independant UFO organisations and researchers in the north of Britain. The Northern UFO News is a monthly forum for their news, information and ideas. The views expressed herein do not, necessarily, reflect those of all associated.

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NOTICES:

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UFOSIS (UFO Studies Information Services) will help all those interested in taking their study of UFOs further. Send SAE to 136 Cleveland Tower, Holloway Circus, Birmingham B1 1UE

PHENOMENA OF EARTH & SKY:- One day seminar with lecturers etc. To be held on Saturday AUGUST 7th 1976 at The Dorman Museum Middlesbrough.

Details from Middlesbrough Council.

NEXT MONTH.....

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Final appraisal of Rainhill possible landing - NAPRA REPORT
More Irish Cases (possible contactee...)
Latest sighting information and news.

ELSEWHERE THIS MONTH

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BUFORA JOURNAL - Jan/Feb : NUFON 'Open Door' Report, Farnborough Contact case
CONTACT UKs 'Awareness' Winter 75 :
Mysteries of the moonshaft, UFOs over Belgium and Northern Oxfordshire
CNK - Issue 11 : NUFON report Landing and traces left in Clapham Woods??

MEETINGS

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BUFORA Yorkshire - 1st Monday in month
DICAP - 2nd Friday in month

APRIL 3: 'Extraterrestrial Probabilities' Dr. Anthony Martin lectures to BUFORA at 7.30pm Kensington Library London

APRIL 10 NUFON Committee meeting
Fiesta Club Sheffield 2pm

GROUP NEWS::

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BUFORAs Northern Ireland branch, organised by investigators Miles Johnston and John Hind has been busy of late. Elsewhere this issue is a full report on a flap they experienced late last year. They have also been forging links with CONTACT (Eire) and the countries other major organisation, SKYSCAN. This included a recent joint meeting. Also January saw the advent of 'Irish UFO News' a very worthy first venture into the publications field with much valuable information on Irish cases.

PULSE, the West Lancashire group which sprang from the Preston Psychical Society, is expanding its UFO involvements. Good wishes go to Bryan Hartley - who was recently appointed Secretary in order to develop this aspect of this interesting group.

SUFORS are still experiencing a dearth of Lincolnshire sightings and Nigel Watson is now entering into final stages of preparation for the filming of NUFON groups for the documentary he is producing on their activities. Looking forward to the premier - which if all goes well may be at NUFONs May Conference.

UFOSIS are growing in stature from month to month. Several new members of great value have joined and their membership scheme (which is FREE but only involves those who actually participate in group work) is a very interesting experiment which seems to be paying off. They have applied for official BUFORA affiliation.

GENERAL NEWS::

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BUFORAs research evening on February 7th seems to have attracted a favourable response. Talks were given on various aspects of current research, including what was said to be an excellent outline of where British Ufology should go from here by David Viewing of the extraterrestrial society. We hope to have these talks available on the NUFON cassette library shortly. Work is in its final stages, in collaboration with NUFON, on the preparation of a list of research and investigation advisors - experienced or qualified people in various useful fields. In depth study of the ATV film case is also underway, with both ATV and Dr Hyneks centre assisting.

CONTACT UK and NUFON are working together on the production of an extensive catalogue of northern cases. The initial catalogue (based on northern England) is envisaged as a fore-runner to other geographically based catalogues. It will be sub-divided by type and will be kept open in order to be maintained up to date as time progresses. It promises to be a valuable piece of research.

NUFON will be publishing in the next month or so a new special report, which adds to the fine work NAPRA have done in preparing an outline of investigation into reports involving physical traces. This 'Guide to Investigation of Special Cases' will also include sections on photographic reports, E/M interference and physiological effects. Appended will also be the list of advisors for group use and special equipment for investigation purposes.

Progress on the NUFON files is being made. It is hoped to synchronise them with both BUFORAs and CONTACT UKs. At the moment all reports are being transferred onto 'Data Summary' forms to give a uniform layout to all data. This will ease the use of NUFON case material, available for research work by either direct loan or photo copy (as indicated by Peter Warrington at the last NUFON meeting). The BUFORA punch card system is also to be adopted for transfer of all high level data in order that meaningful statistical work can be done. Systems of classification (at present based on a modification of Hyneks system) are being examined, along with the incorporation of his SP (Strangeness/Probability) values to give rapid indication of important cases. Comments would be appreciated on these matters. Suggested modifications to the Hynek system to date are:

GROUP 1: NOCTURNAL LIGHTS & ill-defined daylight cases a) one witness b) independent
GROUP 2: DAYLIGHT DISCS - all good daylight cases a) and b) as above witnesses
GROUP 3: INSTRUMENTALLY DETECTED CASES - Photographic, Radar Visual, E/M effects
GROUP 4: CLOSE ENCOUNTERS - no effects a) and b) as above
GROUP 5: CLOSE ENCOUNTERS a) Environmental effects b) witness effects
GROUP 6: CLOSE ENCOUNTERS occupant and contact cases

S ratings would be based on type of report and number of strange parameters

P rating would be based on numbers and reliability of witnesses and identifying factors

PLEASE NOTE!!!

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Notice is hereby given that the next committee meeting of the NUFON Governing Committee will be held on APRIL 10th 1976 at 2pm. Venue Fiesta Club, Sheffield (directions from Mr Cassinelli - see Sheffield UFORA address. TEL: Dinnington 5795)
AGENDA: Minutes, matters arising, correspondence, election of returning officer, reports by serving officers, election of new officers, progress reports, business for discussion
-1) organisation of May 22 conference. Other matters. Date & venue of next meeting.

CONTACTING UFOs - BY MEANS OF A CIGARETTE LIGHTER:- Sobering report from UFOSIS

Although it must be stated at the outset that UFOSIS have concluded the following case to be a hoax,perpetuated for reasons unknown,it is well worth recording since it gives sobering insight into how to tackle a contactee case if and when you get one.

The witness comes from Walsall and is 34 years old.He claims to have been in constant contact with UFOs since ~~June~~ 1967.His method of contact is a remarkable one since it involves signalling via a cigarette lighter on any clear night.The UFOs then respond by appearing very high (30,000' was mentioned!!) and repeatedly flashing or shooting out beams of light.He presents only two or three back-up witnesses to his many observations,despite the length of time they have been occurring and despite our witness having made these observations from various locations within the West Midlands conurbation.Checks on these 'witnesses' revealed one deceased,one away 'in hospital' and being hunted by the police and one a very close friend and work mate of the witness!!!

UFOSIS went to considerable trouble collating all the information given to them by the witness in 43 pages of written material and on taped interviews.Checks with weather conditions for most recent observations revealed serious errors in many instances.EG many 'clear nights'were in fact heavily overcast,on days when UFOs appeared near the Moon it was not visible and on one occasion his signaling (by cigarette lighter) would need to have been done in a gale force wind!! Not content with this growing accumulation of evidence against the witness UFOSIS took the trouble of visiting him on a clear night.Our friend did signal for forty minutes but no UFOs paid a visit.Mis wife was very upset.His response was that 'the Moon had never been in that position on a night when UFOs had appeared before'. Pursuing matters further three UFOSIS investigators spent a chilly vigil in an adjacent empty garden and unbeknown to the witness observed him on a clear night.He DID come into the garden and stared at the sky for TWELVE minutes but made no attempt to signal.

The final stage of UFOSISs investigation was a search through records to try to find a well publicised similar case.The only one which turned up involved a very similar incident in the USA,recorded in the January 1976 issue of Official UFO.If this were the impetus for this 'hoax' the witness would have to have read it elsewhere since correspondance with UFOSIS on the matter began several months prior to its publication in this journal.

One can see from this that UFOSIS did exactly the right thing.They attempted,with an open mind,to find evidence to PROVE or DISPROVE the statements by the witness. Nothing was forthcoming and after a careful and detailed appraisal at a special meeting they concluded the report to be a hoax.Surely a lesson in investigation technique into this,especially tricky (but potentially important) type of case.

REPORTS FROM THE PAST

About 1952

Dumfries,Scotland

BUFORA REPORT

The witness was a gliding instructor with the RAF school,and well acquainted with aircraft.It was 2-30 on a bright,sunny afternoon.An object which he at first took to be an aircraft with swept back wings (because of its fuselage shape and dull metal colour) appeared in the NW and sped across the airfield southwards.It was very low and only took about 5 seconds to cover a considerable distance.A couple of seconds after it had passed a loud rumbling sound was heard,but despite the close approach of the object no other sound was heard.Calculations showed the speed to be several thousand miles per hour - well in excess of any aircraft at that time.

1960

Moxley,Wolverhampton

UFOSIS REPORT

Little detail is remembered of this report,but it involves the sighting of a 'red glow' following the course of the national grid transmission lines at a height of about 200 feet.It moved ENE.

THE UFO THAT SUCKED UP STRAW: Report by Derek James (UFORA Staffs)

As mentioned in the January 1976 newsletter we had had a mysterius report dating from late Summer 1973 which tied in with a series of sightings investigated at the time by Derek James.They occurred on the day the Good Year airship passed over on a flight to its base near Wolverhampton.Trailing behind it by a few miles was a funny black cloud.The weather was perfect and there were no other clouds.The first sight of it was made over Cloud End,an outcrop rising from the Cheshire plains.A woman reported it and a 'brilliant star' above it which kept popping in and out.The cloud sailed majestically onwards over the Potteries directly against a very light breeze (which was not enough to disturb trees).At Kiddlington,as it passed by,an astonished

train driver told how a very heavy sack of coal suddenly took off upwards and went straight beside his cab - despite the absence of any wind! Next a field of Hay was sucked up by the cloud at Chell and dumped unceremoniously on houses in Burslem, a mile away. In Stoke itself the mischevious cloud tugged the roof off a builders hut and dropped it - onto a civic's car! Reports came in from farmers in the line of flight who observed straw and other sundry items rising majestically upwards into this cloud - though again absolutely no wind was detected. The events received some publicity on radio and TV, and 'officially' a whirlwind was the cause. Derek untangled the many exaggerated reports and presented factual accounts to BUFORA, who seem to have never published any details about them which is very sad.

REPORT FROM HUMBERSIDE:: By Derick Shelton (Compiled by Nigel Watson - SUFORS)

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The brief accounts below span several years of activity, which has not been previously recorded, and thanks are due to the dilligent work of our new regional consultant for his work in uncovering it.

The first report comes from about 1958 and concerns a smoke ring. It was grey in colour and passed over Pickering Park heading eastwards. Height was estimated at 500 - 1000'. It was a clear sunny day.

The most detailed sighting comes from June or July 1969 when Mr and Mrs Binnington were driving towards Paul. The time was about 19-00. The object appeared first as a bright shiny disc. It was spinning. It flew in and out of heavy cloud cover and then finally re-emerged some distance from where it was first seen. It then split into two separate discs and these flew off over the sea in opposite directions. The length of observation was estimated as between 5 and 6 minutes, and the most suprising fact to the witnesses was that 'the whole of Hull did not see it.'

An intriguing story, which Dereick is trying to track further, involves a possible landing near to Burstwick. Two ladies investigated the report from the farmer who saw the object depart and found a large flattened area of grass. They also found four equally spaced holes, two feet deep, which were in symmetrical formation.

There has been little sighting activity of late in this area (odd since SUFORS have long been reporting the avoidance of Lincolnshire in recent times). One case from 1975 is recorded elsewhere in the current sighting reports section.

THE HOUGH GREEN SOUND:: Report by Dave Gittens, NAPRA

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This intriguing report concerns a weird, unexplained sound which occurred twice in one week over an area known as Hough Green, Widnes, Cheshire. Mr & Mrs Littler made the claim, but could not remember the exact date - thinking it to be 1969 or 1970. Careful research by NAPRA uncovered the relevant press cutting from the 'Weekly News' of October 13th 1967 which attested to the fact that the two incidents were on October 3rd and October 5th 1967.

Mrs Littler heard the noise first on both occasions. On the first instance she alone heard it, but on the second at 6am her husband captured it on tape (they having set up a recorder should it ever return). Mr Littler was worried at how distraught his wife had appeared after the first manifestation of the phenomenon. She had burried her head under the pillow as the pulsating and throbing whine faded in and out. Mr Littler looked out of the window during the second occurrence, but saw nothing. However the piercing whine was plainly recorded for several minutes, rising and falling in intensity, and obviously extremely close to their home.

NAPRA interviewed the witnesses and obtained a copy of the tape. It certainly was a disturbing noise. The family dog, which they had not had at the time of the incident, became excessively agittated and began to bark furiously (this behaviour is indicated on recordings NAPRA made at the time). Mrs Littler had to turn off the tape to sooth the distressed animal. Careful analysis of the sound shows its apparant persistant at the same distance from the recorder for several minutes, following a brief period when it appears to approach. There is also indication of it fading in and out slightly. Interestingly one of the theories out forward to 'explain' the mystery (that of a passing train on a railway line not far from their home) would seem to have to be discarded as quite clearly the noise of a passing train is superimposed on the background of the recording at one part of the incident. The comparison is quite striking in its obvious difference.

NAPRA are still checking this report, especially to find other people (who did claim to hear it) and one man who jumped off his motorcycle into a hedge and who MAY have

been witness to the actual source. It would be most interesting if people could research into records and find any UFO incidents for either of these dates (the time on the first occasion is only known to have been 'early morning'). If you do turn up with anything let us know.

NAPRA conclude their report with a series of questions.

Why was the date so ineffectively recalled when the phenomenon had left a very lasting impression on the witnesses?

Could a proffered suggestion that it is a passing oil tanker (which often can be heard going by) be correct? If so why has this mystery noise been reported only on these two occasions? Could its noise have been reflected from an overflying aircraft?

NORTHERN IRELAND FLAP - November 1975: Report by Miles Johnstone (BUFORA N.Ireland)

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A routine skywatch had been arranged for Saturday, November 1st 1975. The skywatch had been called due to recent sightings in the south of Ireland and several LITS reports further north. Despite very poor attendance James Knox in Larne reported seeing two objects flying near his area at 18.55 and 19.18. At the Lurgan base an exactly similar object was seen at this time. We can only say a LITS was travelling very rapidly SW-NE. Despite an absolutely perfect night for skywatching no further objects were seen.

The following evening a phone call informed me that five objects had been seen to fly at phenomenal speed in a 'V' formation SW-NE across the Belfast skyline. The report came from a highly competent and experienced amateur astronomer and despite misquotes in the press they were definitely not the Queen's Air Squadron because of their speed and appearance. This sighting had occurred at 22.52 on November 1st. Meanwhile I made enquiries with the local IBA TV station about the sightings. I was then asked to appear on their current affairs programme 'UTV Reports'. As it turned out whilst I was on the air, on Monday November 3rd, some schoolboys and several other witnesses saw strange lights near the small seaside town of Donaghadee.

The boys, aged 15-16, were playing football at about 17.30. This interview was conducted with BBC reporter Mark O'Neil, who at the time was doing research for a possible Nationwide report on recent Ulster UFO activity. After a whole afternoon motoring around the town, at the BBC's expense, we were unable to locate any further witnesses. The object seen in this event was described as a 'big yellow thing in the sky' which was shaped like a rugby ball.

A Miss Taylor reported having seen a UFO in this same town, and at the same time her transistor radio was affected. Unfortunately after some hours we were unable to locate her and we can only assume she did not live in Donaghadee or was a professional hoaxer (assuming she gave her real name).

The Scottish Daily Mail contacted me on November 9th with regard to a woman in Southern Ayrshire who had seen a yellow object hovering over the sea at the same time as similar objects were seen again in Donaghadee. This sighting was made on November 5th. On the same night Martin Woodds and some friends saw a large white circular object with two smaller objects in front, flying low over Belfast at 18.00. This object was also seen in Donaghadee, since by now people were looking out for UFOs. Martin Woods is an amateur astronomer and a very reliable witness.

The flap was handled in the best way we could manage at the time. John Hind was able to follow up most of the reports by telephone - that is those reports we could follow up. There was a 50% drop out from the witnesses who phoned the papers. We are therefore going to decide what steps to take to remedy the situation at a meeting with Skyscan and CONTACT (Eire). It is thought that this will entail a nationwide publicity campaign.

OBJECTS SEEN DURING THE FLAP

The flap was concentrated in the Belfast area and officially lasted from October 28th to November 5th.

NOTES ON PREVIOUS CASES::

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UFORA Staffs have closed the file on report 75/112 since the witnesses were unwilling to come forward with any more details. The report was featured in NUN issue 20.

UFOSIS report 75/122 can be appended with more details of the subsequent sighting at 14.00 on the same date (December 19 1975) also from Redditch. A local press photographer using a Nikon F35 ml camera with wide angle lens took 5-6 pictures of a discoid object similar to the one described that morning. It was tinted yellow and moved westwards. On glancing up it had just vanished. (REF: Redditch Indicator 29/12/75)

CURRENT SIGHTING REPORTS::

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Report 75/126 October 2 1975 Hull Investigation: Derick Shelton

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Mr John Scarah reports that whilst looking through 16x50 binoculars, looking in the direction of Goole, he saw a triangular shaped object gleaming with a bronze colour (presumably reflecting sunlight). It remained stationary between 4-6 minutes, the witness keeping it in view inside the frame of a TV aerial. No mention is made of the method of disappearance and in absence of further data this event seems possibly attributable to some type of meteorological balloon.

Report 75/124 December 14 1975 Nottinghamshire Investigation : MURO

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The witness is a 41 year old man, who is chief laboratory technician at a college of education. He paid his own expenses to a second interview, a fact which MURO believe tends to argue in favour of his report being in good faith.

It involves TWO sightings. The first night, December 13th, is one of already well known high UFO incidence (see NUN Issue 21 and Special report number 3 - February 1976). On this night the observation was made at 19.00 to 19.15 between Newark and Sleaford whilst driving on the A17. The sighting on December 14th occurred at 23.15 to 23.30 at Carburton. On both occasions the object was described as an orange ball, a little smaller than the Moon in angular size. It disappeared by shrinking to a point source. On the second observation the witness stopped the car and got out to confirm it was not any kind of reflection. He has had experience working in Air Traffic Control for the RAF, though over 20 years ago. Subsequently his car malfunctioned but the local investigators were satisfied that this was previously occurring carburettor trouble.

Report 7604 January 21 1976 West Didsbury, Manchester Investigation: MUFORA

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Very little information was forthcoming from the witness to this event. He simply describes a ball of fire seen very briefly in the north western sky at 03.20. MUFORA decided not to press this matter further since it was most likely a meteor.

Report 7608 January 23 1976 Redditch Investigation: UFOSIS

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It would seem that the Redditch area is suddenly becoming THE place to see a UFO. As recorded elsewhere on December 19th 1975 there were TWO separate observations of disc shaped craft, including a series of photographs taken (see Report 75/122). On the above date the witness happened to look out of his window at work at 13.35 and saw a shiny metallic disc which was moving slowly northwards. Its height was just at cloud level (confirmed 1500'). The witness went outside but heard no noise. He watched the



object move across a patch of blue sky. There were no visible markings. It now hovered for thirty seconds and then instantly accelerated away on the same course leaving a short vapour trail for only a few seconds. This trail remained in the sky for some minutes. The local RAF base confirmed that no aircraft were in the area at the time.

Report 7611 February 16 1976 Moorside, Oldham Investigation: MUFORA

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At 22.20 a civil servant had called to check a boiler at a church. Before entering he passed a gap overlooking a wide expanse to the WNW. At elevation 30 degrees and an estimated height of 80-100' he saw a shower of green sparks which lasted 2-3 seconds. The weather was very overcast.

Report 7612 February 17 1976 Winter Hill, Lancs. Investigation: RIGAP

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RIGAP are preparing a full report on this case which involves the daylight sighting (10.30 hrs) of a dull silver oval with a 'flattened mushroom' on top. It emitted a high pitched humming noise. FOR REFERENCE see Burnley Evening Star 23/2/76

Report 7613 February 26 1976 Kettering, Northants Investigation: SFUR

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At approximately 02.00 the witness observed from his bedroom a brilliant round yellowish light about the apparant size of a pea at arms length. It danced up and down like a ping pong ball and moved across the sky erratically from west to north. At two minute intervals it fired two tails of light, like roman candles. The night was overcast and the object appeared in and out of cloud. It was in view 15-20 minutes and the witness did not see it disappear.

STOP PRESS::: A most interesting case is being investigated by MUFORA. It occurred on March 1st at Oldham (close to the scene of the famous Cairo Mill case in 1972). The object was disc shaped with a rotating transparent rim. More details next month.

Detailed Sighting Investigation Number 4 :: THE BOLTON/BLACKBURN FLAP

Principal investigation conducted jointly by DIGAP and RIGAP

Investigators include: Tim Evans, Tony Grimshawe, Bill Skellon, Arthur Tomlinson.

INTRODUCTION:

It was decided to include the detailed report on these cases this month as something of an experiment. Previous publications have NOT produced the anticipated comment and suggestion from groups for further evaluation on these selected cases of higher merit. Since this is one of the chief functions of these detailed reports it was decided to try a wider approach to see if this elicits more response. If you have not already done so please show copies of detailed reports 1-3 to members or outside agencies who may have something to contribute in evaluation and please submit any comment to NUFON.

There are four events covered in this report. 7605 occurred on Friday January 23, 7606 on January 25th and 7609 on January 30th. The report 7610 involves a photograph taken on a date which has so far been unconfirmed. This photograph was submitted to DIGAP by the Bolton Evening News who had received it from an anonymous person who claimed to have taken it from Horwich during the recent flap. They signed themselves 'Yours shocked' and said they wanted nothing further to do with the matter. It depicts a domed disc taken in clear daylight and seen over the roof of a house (which is also in the shot). DIGAP are of course attempting to trace the originator of this report.

THE SCENE OF THE FLAP:

N

BLACKBURN

Shadsworth
X(7609)

Horwich
X(7610)

XX(7605, 7606)
Westhaughton BOLTON

NB Winter Hill (see RIGAP report
7612) is also in the flap area

References:

The first notification was a brief note on case 7605 which appeared in the Bolton Evening News on January 24th. On January 27th they carried a more detailed article with the story of case 7606 also included. This also signified the fact that DIGAP were investigating the reports. On January 30th Granada TV interviewed two of the three witnesses to case 7606 (the witness to 7605 refused to be filmed). On February 2nd the Bolton Evening News featured the third witness to case 7606 in a letter. MUFORA checked on this report. On the same night the Lancashire Evening Telegraph told of case 7609. Following this DIGAP and RIGAP agreed to mount a joint investigation into the case, owing to the possible connections with the Bolton cases DIGAP had been investigating. Finally on February 20th Jenny Randles of MUFORA appeared on Piccadilly Radio to talk about the cases and appeal for more witnesses. There was no direct response.

REPORT 7605 January 23 1976 18.05 hrs Bolton OS REF: Sheet 101 685080

In many ways this was the most fascinating of the reports, unless of course DIGAP can come up with more data on the alleged photograph. The witness in this instance was Miss Shelley Barnes, a 17 year old receptionist with 0 levels to her name.

Miss Barnes was returning home from work on a cold and clear evening. There were few clouds and the sky was a grey/blue. There was only a slight breeze. Out of the corner of her eye she saw a small red light in the south west by the Rumworth Lodge Reservoir where partly finished houses are being built. She thought it looked like a car's back light. The elevation was about 25 degrees at first but it suddenly came straight towards her at a tremendous speed which she has estimated at about 1 mile per second. It now resolved into the shape opposite. It was like a flat topped diagonal with a rounded underside. There were two lights on it, one a deep but dim red and the other a rich amber. The

object had now stopped and was hovering over the rooftops. The lights were not very bright but were showing up the outline of the object quite clearly. She believes that it was about 20 -25 feet in diameter and it appeared to be definitely made of metal.

The lights, she believes, were not actually on the object but were glows which were coming from within. She also thought that there was a diffuse whitish light along the middle but this disappeared when the object quite distinctly tilted to one side. It also began to spin extremely fast, but there was no sound at all despite the fact that it was apparently extremely close to her. However she did note one fact which may well be of great significance. When the object began to spin her bottom teeth began to chatter. Subsequent questioning on this point has led to the conclusion that this was not the normal chattering one would associate with cold or fear, but rather a peculiar 'grating' sensation which MAY have been due to the presence of some ultra sonic frequency sound waves.

The actual observation of the object had only lasted about ten seconds but Shelley was by now, not surprisingly, extremely frightened and she ran home and indoors with the object still hovering there. She immediately called the police to report the incident who were convinced by her sincerity. When Granada TV asked her to be interviewed in conjunction with the other witnesses from case 7606 she refused, "because they were not treating it seriously enough".

Comment:
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This last point may be of great significance, pointing as it does to the obvious sincerity of the witness and her desire not to attract publicity for its own sake. The only suggestion proffered by the police was of a low flying aircraft. DIGAP did not discover any, and of course they do not hover, tilt on edge and rotate very fast apart from the fact that Shelley describes a very distinctive shape.

As a little subnote to this case it may be of interest to relate that on the same night at 22.30, 23.05 and 22.25 the witness also saw three blue beams of light which briefly flashed in the windows of the uncompleted houses by the reservoir. DIGAP feel these may have been arc welding torches (would they be working at that time???)

Report 7606 January 25 1976 02.00 Bolton (various sites close to previous one)
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Despite the extensive publicity given to this report it principally involves no more than a light in the sky. The first two witnesses, 19 year old Christine Young and her younger sister Jillian Newton, were returning home from a club. They saw the object in the southern sky. It was a brilliant whitish light which was described in the press as 'about four feet long'. It appeared to be jagged at the edges. The girls watched it for about three minutes as it remained perfectly stationary over some roof tops. It disappeared by simply fading out.

The witnesses in interview were not very articulate and assuming that the details recounted in the press were those given by the girls then there was definite divergence with what DIGAP were told. In consequence DIGAP were not impressed with their testimony, and the sighting was of low strangeness value in any event. The weather was chiefly very clear and cold, but there was overnight snow which means that the possibility of ice particles in the atmosphere reflecting starlight or moonlight was present. The jagged edged description is typical of a bright star seen under exceptionally clear and cold conditions (especially so late at night when the girls would be tired). The dimming out is also commensurate with the slow coverage by a layer of high cloud. DIGAP felt that they may have seen the Moon or a bright star. The Moon did not rise until 2.35 am, but the planet Saturn was quite bright and in a position which possibly could account for the sighting.

The third witness, Miss Barton, came to light by writing to the press following all the publicity and saying she had seen the same thing at the same time. It too had been stationary for upwards of ten minutes. MUFORA attempted to get information out of her but she did not return a sighting form and does not appear to want to be interviewed. In view of the other facts it would seem she too was witness to no more than a star.

Report 7609 January 30 1976 19.55 Shadsworth, Blackburn OS REF: Sheet 95 707272
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DIGAP and RIGAP jointly interviewed the three witnesses to this case on February 5th. The original version of the story was given as follows:

"There were three witnesses, Kathleen Reeves (aged 23), her sister Marlene (aged 18) and Gail Harrington (aged 23). The witnesses were walking towards the Set End Inn. Kathleen first saw the object and pointed it out to the others. They started to run, following it as it moved SSW towards Guide. It was travelling slowly and spinning. One witness claimed it was going too slowly to support itself in the air, and the others agreed that it just seemed to 'hang'. It was described as oval shaped with nine windows. These seemed to be spinning and throwing lights out from inside, which

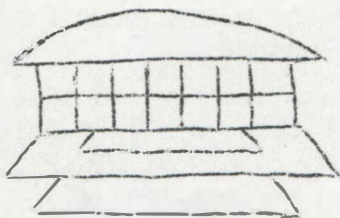
were alternately red, yellow, green and blue. They ran along after it shouting and screaming at each other. They passed some people at the bus stop but they pretended not to notice them and did not look at the object. (Hardly too surprising in the circumstances!!) The object then faded out in the SSW.

THE OBJECT AS DRAWN



Following this interview RIGAP contacted the reporter who had been approached by Kathleen with the story. She said that she was in two minds as to whether they were genuine, but in the end decided to use the story. The brief account given to her was in general agreement with what RIGAP and DIGAP were told at the interview.

On February 14th RIGAP returned to the two sisters and recorded a further interview with them. There were now some distinct discrepancies in their stories. For one thing they now insisted on a double row of windows. Apparently one portion spun round whilst the other remained still and then it all began to spin. When it was spinning it was only a bright white colour. The various coloured lights appeared when it was still. The girls also insisted now that it had hovered for a while and indeed had taken a



circular course, as depicted in the drawing opposite, before shooting away. The direction now was different. Instead of SSW (which would have interestingly taken the object over a reservoir - see Report 7605) they now said SSE. Another discrepancy was in its mode of disappearance. They now said that it simply 'took off into nothing'. On the

first interview they had claimed a duration of 2-3 minutes for the sightings but now they were talking in terms of seven minutes or more. Needless to say RIGAP let them relate these factors without interruption, but it has left them somewhat puzzled as to what to make of the case.

Comment:

At the time there was quite extensive cloud cover and a wind of strong to gale force from the SE (opposed to the flight of the object). There were no bright satellites visible. The girls were extremely excited at the interview, and attested to the fact that they were during the sighting itself. This makes it seem most likely that they will have misinterpreted and possibly exaggerated some of the facts about what they saw. This may account for the distinct changes in their story at the second interview. Aircraft do cross the area on occasion and the absence of sound may have been due to the winds. If we are to accept at face value the various details of the accounts an aircraft does not seem possible, but bearing in mind the variations in testimony and the obvious question marks about the witnesses state of mind at the time then it would seem that we cannot dismiss this as a possible explanation.

CONCLUSION:

Perhaps one of the most interesting features of these reports is that all seven witnesses involved were girls in their late teens or just after. Is that of any relevance??? It would seem that the publicity given to the flap had some relation to at least the January 25th case, and it is of note that this case received the most publicity despite it being by far the lowest value of all three. Of course in any true sense this was NOT a real flap. More likely it was a series of unrelated sightings which happened to occur in close proximity. This view MAY have to be amended if

- it is found that the Shadsworth case is genuine and did involve a close encounter (especially if it DID fly over the reservoir)
- the photographic case does provide more substantial elements and is a further close encounter case and
- the new report from February 17 at Winter Hill, which RIGAP are investigating, does prove to be yet another close encounter.

At the moment it would seem that only the Shelley Barnes case is likely to be representative of a significant UFO event.

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